



FAQ's

Why do I need interfacing?

While hidden in a garment, interfacing shapes, supports, and stabilizes detail areas of a garment such as collars, facings, and waistbands. It can make the difference between a garment looking and feeling good in wear, or feeling stiff, rigid and uncomfortable. Without interfacing, a garment can be limp and lifeless.

How do I choose between a sew-in & fusible?

Most sewers choose a fusible interfacing for its ease and speed of application. A sew-in interfacing is generally selected when shaping is very soft, or when the fashion fabric cannot be fused. Generally, a fusible style will feel just a little firmer than a sew-in of the same weight. For most applications, the choice between sew-in or fusible is a matter of personal preference.

Are there any fabrics that can't be fused? yes

- Water, stain, or crease resistant finishes are hard to permanently fuse. The adhesive can't penetrate the finish. Some fabrics are marked (example: "protected with Scotch Guard®") so you are forewarned. If you don't know, here's a simple test: Place a square of the fabric, right side up, over the top of a glass or jar and hold it in place with a rubber band. Place a few drops of water on top of the fabric. See how long it takes for the water to sink in. If the fabric has a heavy finish, it will "sit" on top of the fabric for a long time.
- Heat sensitive fabrics shouldn't be fused. The heat needed for fusing may stiffen, melt, shrink, or cause them to change color.
- Pile fabrics such as rayon velvet may be crushed with a combination of heat and pressure. Specialty adhesives on some interfacings, though, and the use of a needle board or scrap of fabric underneath, make more of these fabrics "fusible". See pro-tip for fusing velvet.
- Lacy, open weave fabrics should not be fused.

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How do I choose between nonwoven, knitted, woven, or weft inserted styles?

For most applications, it's a matter of personal preference.

- Nonwoven interfacings are suitable for virtually all apparel

applications. Available in a wide variety of weights and "handles" (degrees of softness, firmness, thickness) they are used in at least 80% of Ready-To-Wear.

- Knits such as Easy-Knit® are popular in women's dresses and unlined jackets. They provide soft, flexible shaping and are ideal open facings and unlined garments.
- Woven cotton interfacings such as Shape-Flex® are generally used in dress shirt collars and waistbands. Woven hair cloth and canvas are reserved for tailored coats and jackets that are dry-cleaned. (The luxury fusible Bi-Stretch Lite™ is an exception to traditional woven rules. Since it is sheer, light weight, and has stretch, it can be used in a wide variety of applications.)
- Weft-inserted styles such as Ultra Weft™ are used in softly tailored jackets and coats that are dry-cleaned.

Do I need to preshrink my interfacing before I use it?

Pellon® interfacings do not require preshrinking. However, we recommend home sewers pre-treat their fashion fabric according to the fabric care instructions. This is especially important when using high shrinkage fabrics such as 100% cottons, silk, and imported woolens.

I accidentally got some fusible on my iron. Can it be removed without damaging my iron?

Yes. There are several brands of "hot iron cleaners" available in fabric/craft and hardware stores. Packaged in tubes like toothpaste, you simply squeeze some out on cloth and then slide a hot iron through it. In addition to fusible adhesives, these cleaners remove spray starch and other "gunk" build-up. Two products to look for: Dritz® Iron-off™ and Bon Ami Hot Iron Cleaner.

Pro-tip

To protect your iron from buildup, or to rejuvenate the bottom of an old iron, consider using an Iron Safe®. This teflon iron "shoe" fits over the bottom of your iron and provides an ideal ironing surface. If fusible adhesives or spray starch come in contact with it, you can simply wipe it off with water. The Iron Safe is also great for general pressing. You can press on the right side of a the fabric-without using a press cloth—it prevents fabric shine.

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Why did the fabric (in the interfaced area) bubble after I washed (or dry-cleaned) my garment?

- The fusible interfacing may have been too heavy for the fashion fabric. The adhesive may have overpowered the fabric and create an "orange peel" look. Repressing may smooth the fabric out, but regrettably sometimes this can't be fixed.

- If the fabric looks blistered, the interfacing may not be completely or properly fused, or a finish is preventing a strong bond. Pressing or re-fusing may smooth everything out.
- The fashion fabric may have shrunk. Repressing may smooth the fabric out, but regrettably sometimes this can't be fixed.
I accidentally fused in the interfacing (or appliqué) to the wrong side of the fabric (place). Can I get it off?
With lots of steam you may be able to fix things - but unfortunately "Murphy's Law" seems to work overtime with this sewing mishap.
- Using just the steam from your iron (no pressure) reheat the interfacing or appliqué While it is still hot, try to peel it away.
- If residue remains on the fabric underneath, cover it with a lightweight scrap of fabric and press lightly. This may help to transfer the adhesive from the fashion fabric to the scrap fabric.
- A heavy-duty cleaning fluid such as Carbona may also help remove the fusible residue.

Why didn't my fusible interfacing stick? What should I do?

For a fusible adhesive to work, it needs to be heated until it is soft. Pressure pushes it into the fabric. When it cools, the adhesive recrystallizes and is attached to the fabric. There are several reasons why an adhesive might not stick:

- Heat and Time: Unfortunately, iron temperature settings are not consistent.
- Not enough heat: (You can clearly see the adhesive dots on the interfacing, and little or no adhesive on the fabric underneath.) Raise the iron temperature and fuse again using a little more time. Too much heat: (The adhesive dots on the interfacing have disappeared. The fusible may have over liquefied and run into the fabric underneath.) Additional pressing will not help. Switch to a sew-in style.
- Pressure: Be sure to press down firmly with your iron. Hand held steamers will not permanently bond interfacing or fusible web to another fabric. Fabric finishes: Water, stain, and crease resistant finishes also resist fusible adhesives. Some fabrics are marked (example: "protected with Scotch Guard®") so you are forewarned. If you don't know, here's a simple test: Place a square of the fabric, right side up, over the top of a glass or jar and hold it in place with a rubber band. Place a few drops of water on top of the fabric. See how long it takes for the water to sink in. If the fabric has a heavy finish, it will "sit" on top of the fabric for a long time. Switch to a sew-in style.

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Why didn't my appliqué or trim stick? I used Wonder-Under or Wonder-Web. What should I do?

For a fusible web to work, it needs to be heated until it is soft. Pressure

pushes it into the fabric. When it cools, the adhesive recrystallizes and is attached to the fabric. There are several reasons why an appliqué might not stick:

- **Heat and Time:** Unfortunately, iron temperature settings are not consistent.
- **Not enough heat:** (You can clearly see the adhesive web on the appliqué, and little or no adhesive on the fabric underneath.) Raise the iron temperature and fuse again using a little more time. Too much heat: (The adhesive web on the appliqué has disappeared. The fusible may have over liquefied and run into the fabric underneath.) Use another piece of web and try again.
- **Pressure:** Be sure to press down firmly with your iron. Hand held steamers will not permanently bond.
- **Fabric finishes:** Water, stain, and crease resistant finishes also resist fusible adhesives. Some fabrics are marked (example: "protected with Scotch Guard®") so you are forewarned. For these fabrics, Wonder-Under or Wonder-Web are great sewing aids. Use them to position the appliqué or trim, but, permanent stitching is recommended.
- **Bulky fabrics:**
 - More time may be needed penetrate the fabric.
 - With "fat and thin" or "heavy and light" combinations of fabric, fuse from the thin or lightweight side. If this means fusing on the reverse side, "baste" the appliqué in place by first ironing it into position on the right side of the fabric.
 - Use Heavy Duty Wonder-Under or more than one layer of Wonder-Web.

When I fuse, do I need to use a damp press cloth?

Maybe. For some of Pellon's new luxury fusibles you really don't need it. The adhesives are fast acting. For other products, though, it is recommended. Steam from the press cloth helps the adhesive the fabric underneath. The cloth also protects the interfacing and fashion fabric from scorching or sticking to the iron.

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Pro-tip

Use a press cloth as a timing and temperature guide as you fuse. Ideally, a damp press cloth will be dry after 10 - 15 seconds of fusing. If not, press a little longer and/or turn up the iron setting.

How can I pre-test an interfacing?

Sew-in:

Hold the fashion fabric and interfacing together. The interfacing should not over power the fusible.

Fusible:

1. Cut a 4" square of fashion fabric and a 2"x 4" piece of interfacing. Fuse the interfacing (following the directions) to one side of the fashion fabric square. Let the fabric cool.
2. Check to see if the interfacing has adhered to the fabric. (If not, try pressing the fabric again—using a little more heat and/or pressure.)
3. Check the surface of the fabric. Is it smooth (unchanged)? (If not, the fabric may require a sew-in or different fusible interfacing.)
4. Fold the unfused fashion fabric against the fused side. Hold the layers of fabric together. Do you like how soft or firm, thin or thick they feel? (If not, you'll want to use a different interfacing.)
5. Fold the fused portion of the fabric against itself. Look closely at the fold. The fabric should roll smoothly. (If the fabric "cracks" --looks like folded cardboard—the interfacing is probably too heavy or stiff for your fabric. Retest using a lighter weight style.)

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Pro-tip

- Keep several interfacings on hand so that you can change products to coordinate with your fashion fabric. "Making do" with the wrong product is just as frustrating as having to run to the store to get something else to use. Refer to the [Interfacing Selector](#) for more information.
- When in doubt—go light. Fashion silhouettes are generally soft. Interfacing should never overpower a fabric.
- Home iron temperatures vary. Test fusing will help you determine the best setting for your iron and the fashion fabric. Note: Hand held steamers will not permanently bond interfacing to fabric.

If I want to make sure something is really stiff, should I just use a heavier fusible style?

No, this is a dangerous thing to do. The amount of fusible used on a product is engineered to balance with its end use. For example, sheer light interfacings designed for sheer fabrics have smaller adhesive dots and a less adhesive than products designed for bulky coatings. So, what should I do? Consider using more than one layer of interfacing - fuse both the top and under collar - or use one layer of fusible in combination with a sew-in.

I've had some Wonder-Under® in my stash of supplies for some time. Now, the web has separated from the paper. Can it be used? How?

Yes. The adhesive has not lost its holding power. To use it, simply place the web down on a fabric, cover it with the [Wonder-Under](#) release paper, and iron. The heat will stick all three layers (fabric, web, paper) together. Proceed with your project.

When d I use Heavy Duty Wonder-Under®?

Heavy Duty Wonder-Under has double the weight and adhesive strength of the original. Its ideal for apparel, crafts, and home decorating when extra holding power is needed. It's ideal for appliques, trims, and hems in medium to heavy weight fabrics such as denim, felt, and canvas. It's also recommended for fusing combinations of fabric - thick and thin, heavy and lightweight.

Where can I buy Pellon® Wonder-Shade®?

Pellon Wonder-Shade is no longer being manufactured and has been discontinued from the product line. For a limited time, Hancock Fabrics or Jo-Ann Fabrics may have inventory available.

Wonder-Shade kits (2 yard length of Wonder-Shade, roller, and slat) are available from June Tailor, Inc. (800-844-5400, ask for Katy or Ann.) It is also possible that Hancock's of Paducah (800-845-8723) could have some yardage or kits left in stock

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Quilting FAQ's**Will Quilter's Grid™ make my quilt stiff?**

No. The grid fabric is soft and sheer. Since the quilt squares are ultimately stitched together, very little adhesive is used. (The adhesive, more than the backing, could add stiffness.) We've found quilters notice a little firmer handle as they sew a piece together – BUT – after the top is finished (backed with fleece, backing, and quilted) they generally can't feel the Quilter's Grid inside.

The quilt design I want to use calls for cutting 2 1/2 inch squares. Can I still use Quilter's Grid™?

Definitely! The beauty of a 1" grid is you can use it with all sorts of sizes. Using 2 1/2" squares, you'll have one horizontal and one vertical grid line to keep each piece in perfect alignment.

If the dimensions end with other fractions (quarters, eights, or thirds) you will not hit the grid with each piece, but, it will still be easy to keep pieces straight.

Will the Quilter's Grid™ lines show through if I use a light colored fabric?

No. The beige color we use was thoroughly tested on a wide assortment of fabrics typically used in quilting. Some people have even complained

the lines are too light! (They are easier to see if the pressing surface you spread the grid on is a light, solid color.)

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Can I use Quilter's Grid for designs with rectangles?

Maybe. You can use Quilter's Grid on any design built from squares or rectangles, IF pieces line up in straight even rows top to bottom and side to side. (You have to be able to sew from one side of the piece to the other in a straight line.)

It's easy to see Quilter's Grid will be good in small quilts and wall hangings. But, what about full size quilts? What's the best way to use it?

The bigger the quilt the better! With Quilter's Grid, the more pieces you have, the more you will see the advantages of sewing this new way.

For full size quilts, simply divide the large design into panels for laying out on pieces of grid. You can decide how long and how wide you want each panel to be. For example, making the same twin size quilt, one quilter may opt for using 4 long panels (2 panels across, 2 panels down). The other may choose to use 9 smaller panels (3 panels across and 3 down).

When I machine quilt, the backing fabric doesn't stay as smooth as I would like. What can I do?

Try using Pellon® Fusible Fleece or Fusible Thermolam® Plus instead of a sew-in fleece.

For quilted apparel or pillow top, simply iron your fabric, right side up, on top of the fleece (fusible side up). You can machine quilt-- without using a backing fabric. (Use a loose lining to finish a garment.)

For a more traditional look, place the backing fabric, right side up, on top of the fleece (fusible side up) and iron in place. Turn the backing/fleece combination over and place your quilt top over the fleece. Pin in place. Quilt as desired. (By anchoring the backing fabric and fleece before stitching, the chance of slippage is greatly reduced.)

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Is there a difference between batting and fleece?

Yes. **Batting** is formed by loosely bonding fibers together. (In handling, care must be taken not to pull the batting apart.) It varies in thickness from low loft (1/8" - 1/2"), medium loft (1/2" - 1"), to high loft (1" - 2").

In the middle of a quilt, batting gains stability the more it is quilted. (The fibers are held in place by the stitching.) Low and medium loft battings are

typically used in hand or machine quilted items, high loft battings are usually used in quilts or comforters that are tied.

Batting is typically made of polyester or cotton, but, wool and silk battings are also available. It usually comes packaged in sheets which correspond to common sizes of quilts from crib to king size.

Fleece is denser, more resilient, and easier to handle than batting. It varies in thickness from 1/4" to 3/4". The fabric is formed by bonding fibers together and/or by needle punching. "Needling" is a mechanical process that intertwines the fibers of the fabric together to increase the resilience. As a filling in a quilt, or as padding, fleece is easy to spread and to cut. While it can be hand or machine quilted, it is not dependent on the stitching to maintain its integrity.

Fleece is made of polyester. An adhesive may be added to one side to make the fleece fusible. It is available by the yard and in pre-cut packages. (Pellon offers four different fleeces – Pellon Fleece, Fusible Fleece, Thermolam Plus and Fusible Thermolam Plus.)

I'll be quilting my project. How far apart can my quilting lines be using Pellon® Fleece?

Spacing of quilting rows is more of an issue with batting than with fleece. (Stitching helps to anchor the batting fibers in the quilt. It prevents the fibers from shifting or settling into a large lump after handling or washing. Quilter's frequently use a closed fist to judge the maximum amount of space allowed between stitching.)

Since fleece is needled, the fibers are locked together more tightly than batting. Rows of quilting stitches are more for aesthetics than to prevent fiber shift. Rows of stitching may not be needed at all, or, spaced as far as 5" - 6" apart.

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